



AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MUSICIANS

OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

2026 AFM Diversity Awards

Charles McDaniel Youth Award Application

About

The Charles McDaniel Youth Award honors the legacy of Charles McDaniel, whose dedication to diversity, mentorship, and inclusion in the arts inspired generations of young musicians. This award recognizes an outstanding AFM member or youth program that promotes equity, representation, and belonging among young people in the musical workforce.

The recipient embodies the AFM's values of solidarity, respect, and opportunity for all musicians — fostering a future where every young artist can thrive.

Eligibility

Nominees must:

- Be an AFM member in good standing between the ages of 16 and 35 years old;
- Demonstrate a clear commitment to young people within music education, performance, and/or labor organizing;
- Have made a notable impact on young musicians from underrepresented or marginalized communities.

Award Presentation

Winners will be recognized at the 103rd AFM Convention. Each awardee will receive:

- A commemorative plaque presented at the AFM Convention;
- An all-expenses-paid trip to attend the AFM Convention, including travel, lodging, and registration;
- Recognition in AFM publications and on official communication channels.

Nomination Instructions

Please complete this application and submit all materials by February 27, 2026, and submit to AFM International President Tino Gagliardi at presoffice@afm.org.

Nominees may self-nominate or be nominated by another AFM member, your Local, or a committee.



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Nominee Information

Name and Pronouns: _____

AFM Local(s) #: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State / Province: _____

Zip / Postal Code: _____ Country: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Website or Social Media (optional): _____

Instrument(s) Played or Musical Services Rendered: _____

Length of AFM Membership: _____

Current Ensembles, Bands, or Artists Nominee Works with: _____

Nominator Information (if applicable):

Name and Pronouns: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

AFM Local(s) #: _____

Was this Local Segregated and Merged (and if so, in what year did it merge)?: _____



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Additional Award Information for AFM Locals

Please provide the following supporting materials and documentation. Each item should be clearly labeled and submitted on a separate sheet or as an attachment.

1. Narrative Statement

Please describe the nominee's contributions to diversity, equity, and inclusion among youth in music. (500–1,000 words recommended)

Prompts to consider:

- How has the nominee created opportunities for underrepresented young musicians?
- What specific programs, performances, or initiatives have they led or participated in?
- How do their efforts align with AFM's mission and the legacy of Charles McDaniel?
- What measurable or community impacts have resulted from their work?

2. Nominee Biography

Please include a biography (maximum one page, 12-point font) highlighting the nominee's musical background and union involvement.

3. Letters of Recommendation

Submit three (3) letters of recommendation in support of the nominee's nomination. Letters may come from AFM members, mentors, colleagues, or community leaders familiar with the nominee's work.